(d) by when Government propose to repair the roads and footpaths in the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. After trenching and cable laying, earth refilling works have already been completed by MTNL contractor.

(b) After the refilling work, final reinstatement of road/footpath has to be done by Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(c) MTNL contractor, M/s HCL has been instructed for proper filling of the trenches in portion where it has not been done properly.

(d) The roads/footpaths are to be reinstated by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The road restoration charges for this have already been paid to MCD by MTNL Delhi in advance.

Celluar Phone Service by DOT

33. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to establish a cellular phone service by DOT in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any litigation regarding the establishment of cellular phone service by DOT any where in India; and

(d) if so, what are the action taken to overcome that difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The proposal to establish cellular service by DOT is under examination of the Government.

(c) and (d) There is no litigation regarding the establishment of cellular phone service by the DOT. However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its judgement dated 17.02.1998 had held the licence of MTNL to commence and carry on the business of providing mobile cellular services in Delhi and Mumbai as invalid. Appeal was filed against the TRAI's judgement in Delhi High Court. In the judgement dated 16.07.1998, the Delhi High Court had quashed the order of TRAI.

One of the private operators has filed on Letters Patent Appeal in Division bench of Delhi High Court challenging the judgement of single bench judge. The case is fixed for hearing on 3rd March, 1999.

Outstanding licence fee against cellular telecom operators

34. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of outstanding licence fee remaining unpaid by private basic and cellular telecom operators;

(b) the reasons for allowing such operators to carry on their operations without payment of licence fee; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make the operators pay the dues and the terms and conditions now stipulated by Government for renewal of their licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As on 31.01.1999 a sum of Rs. 815.68 crs. from Basic and Rs. 2892.42 crs. from Cellular operators is outstanding towards Licence Fee including interest thereon.

(b) and (c) As per Licence conditions, the Licensing Authority has been making demands on the operators to pay the licence fees, but the licensees, individually as well through their Associations have been representing that the Govt. should give some relief to them due to non-viability, etc. of their projects.

Letters have been issued to the Cellular & Basic Service operators on 25.01.99 asking them to clear the outstanding dues together with interest thereon immediately. In case of their inability to clear the entire amount in lumpsum immediately, payment of atleast 20% or more of the total dues should be made by 15.02.99. The operators have further been asked to enhance the financial bank guarantees to cover the balance amount payable after deducting the amount paid. Since the licences are issued for 15 years in respect of Basic

Services and 10 years for Cellular Service, the question of periodical renewal does not arise.

Earnings from Telephone connections

35. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone consumers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total earnings on account of security deposit and the earnings from the interest on amount deposited as security; and

(c) the manner in which this amount is being used by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Total number of telephone consumers i.e. Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) as on 31.01.1999 are 19,821,033. State-wise details given in the statement. (*See* below)

(b) During 1997-98 the department collected a total amount of Rs. 629.02 crores as initial deposit (Registration Fee) from applicants of various categories of telephones. The department does not earn any interest on these collections. In fact, it is the applicants who earn interest on the amounts so deposited in accordance with the rules prescribed in this regard. During 1997-98 a sum of Rs. 29.76 cr. was allowed as such interest by the Department.

(c) The amount so received from prospective telephone subscribers towards Registration fees is being taken to Revenue head of the Department and is treated as Internal Resources of the Department which are used for both its capital and revenue expenditures.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Telecom Circle	Total Number of DELs
1.	*Andaman & Nicobar*	12427
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1412059
3.	Assam	182790
4.	Bihar	449214
5.	Gujarat	1396625
6.	Haryana	472359
7.	Himachal Pradesh	196663
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	101703
9.	Karnataka	1368436
10.	Kerala	1241891
11.	Madhya Pradesh	868057
12.	Maharashtra	1697547
13.	North East	132853
14.	Orissa	306466
15.	Punjab	981241
16.	Rajasthan	841599
17.	Tamil Nadu	1327670
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	786540
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	740416
20.	West Bengal	363556
21.	Calcutta	825580
22.	Chennai	562635
23.	Delhi	1578934
24.	Mumbai	1973772
	TOTAL	19821033

Internet service by MTNL

36. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has recently shot down MTNL proposal to start internet services; if so, what were the details of their proposal;

(b) the reasons for rejecting the proposal;

(c) whether public sector players have been provided the level playing field vis-a-vis private sector in providing internet services across the country; and

(d) the details of private sector operating internet services in the country and terms and conditions fixed for their operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of the licences issued to private Companies are enclosed in Statement-I (*See* below). A Synopsis of the terms and conditions are available in Statement-II.